



Tennessee Farm Facts

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In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

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Tennessee Milk Production Down 5 Percent

Tennessee: January-March 2007 quarterly production of milk was 270 million pounds, down 5 percent from the January-March period in 2006. The average number of milk cows was 66,000 head, 3,000 head less than the same period a year earlier. October-December 2006 quarterly production of milk, at 248 million pounds, was down 4 percent from the October-December period in 2005. The average number of milk cows for the October-December quarter was 66,000 head, 3,000 less than a year earlier.

Milk Cows and Production: Selected States and United States, Preliminary January-March, 2006-2007

State	Jan-Mar Milk Cows ¹		Jan-Mar Milk Production ²		Change from 2006
	2006	2007	2006	2007	
	1,000 Head		Million Pounds		Percent
Alabama	14	13	60	58	-3.3
Arkansas	21	18.5	71	63	-11.3
Georgia	78	77	379	381	0.5
Kentucky	101	93	351	333	-5.1
Mississippi	23	22	100	91	-9.0
Missouri	114	115	487	444	-8.8
North Carolina	52	48	254	240	-5.5
Tennessee	69	66	284	270	-4.9
Virginia	103	100	462	446	-3.5
United States	9,092	9,128	45,547	45,999	1.0

¹ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. ² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

United States: Milk production in the 23 major States during March totaled 14.8 billion pounds, up 1.1 percent from March 2006. February revised production, at 13.1 billion pounds, was up 0.6 percent from February 2006. The February revision represented a decrease of 31 million pounds or 0.2 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,782 pounds for March, 7 pounds above March 2006. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.28 million head, 58,000 head more than March 2006, and 5,000 head more than February 2007.

U.S. January - March Milk Production: Milk production in the U.S. during the January - March quarter totaled 46.0 billion pounds, up 1 percent from the January - March quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.13 million head, 36,000 head more than the same period last year.

Dairy Products Prices Highlights: **Cheddar Cheese** prices received for US 40 pound Blocks averaged \$1.40 per pound for the week ending April 14. The price per pound increased 1.2 cents from the previous week. The price for US 500 pound barrels adjusted to 38 percent moisture averaged \$1.41 per pound, up 0.7 cent from the previous week. **Butter** prices received for 25 kilogram and 68 pound boxes meeting USDA Grade AA standards averaged \$1.32 per pound for the week ending April 14. The U.S. price per pound increased 0.9 cent from the previous week. **Nonfat Dry Milk** prices received for bag, tote and tanker sales meeting USDA Extra Grade or USPH Grade A standards averaged \$1.39 per pound for the week ending April 14. The U.S. price per pound increased 4.2 cents from the previous week.

**Young Chickens Slaughtered: Number, Live Weight, Average Live Weight, Pounds Certified, and Post-Mortem
Condemnations, by Month and Annual Total, Tennessee, 2006**

Month	Number Slaughtered	Live Weight	Average Live Weight	Pounds Certified ¹	Post-Mortem Condemnations	
					NY Dressed Weight	Percent ²
	1,000 Head	1,000 Pounds	Pounds	1,000 Pounds	1,000 Pounds	Percent
Jan	23,493	122,477	5.21	89,685	1,142	1.26
Feb	21,536	108,460	5.04	79,283	1,083	1.35
Mar	23,735	119,976	5.05	87,887	961	1.08
Apr	21,156	106,345	5.03	77,786	816	1.04
May	24,791	127,265	5.13	92,983	960	1.02
Jun	23,087	117,398	5.09	85,958	948	1.09
Jul	22,286	113,136	5.08	82,589	857	1.03
Aug	23,482	118,801	5.06	90,222	846	0.93
Sep	22,000	113,105	5.14	81,507	718	0.87
Oct	24,160	124,832	5.17	90,299	809	0.89
Nov	21,616	110,600	5.12	79,817	787	0.98
Dec	20,574	104,728	5.09	75,570	811	1.06
Total	271,916	1,387,123	5.10	1,013,586	10,738	1.05

¹ Total chilled and frozen pounds certified ready-to-cook weights. ² Pounds condemned as a percent of N.Y. dressed weight inspected.

**Layers and Eggs: Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced by Selected States
and United States, During March 2006 and 2007**

Selected States	Table Egg Layers in Flocks 30,000 or more		All Layers ¹		Eggs per 100 for All Layers ¹	
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
	Thousands				Number	
Alabama	1,711	1,279	8,858	8,750	1,930	1,931
Arkansas	4,382	4,563	14,645	14,602	1,926	2,000
Georgia	9,897	10,021	19,740	19,780	2,107	2,154
North Carolina	3,350	3,992	11,081	11,877	2,003	2,054
All Other States ²	266,318	261,511	296,146	291,428	2,280	2,278
United States	285,658	281,366	350,470	346,437	2,238	2,243

¹ Includes all layers and eggs produced in both table egg and hatching egg flocks regardless of size. ² Tennessee included in other states.

Livestock Slaughter¹: Tennessee & United States, March 2006 and 2007

Species	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
	1,000 Head		1,000 Pounds		Pounds	
Tennessee						
Cattle	1.4	2.0	1,275	1,696	934	887
Calves	0.1	0.1	42	43	515	422
Hogs	54.2	54.0	26,771	25,611	494	475
Sheep & lambs	0.9	0.9	71	69	76	80
United States						
Cattle	2,854.0	2,792.6	3,607,680	3,504,629	1,269	1,259
Calves	59.1	70.8	21,078	22,588	359	321
Hogs	9,235.8	9,203.2	2,504,377	2,485,226	271	270
Sheep & lambs	249.8	278.6	36,178	39,013	145	140

¹ Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other commercial slaughter (excludes farm slaughter).

Number of Livestock Slaughtering Establishments: Tennessee, January 1, 1998 - 2007

Year	Under Federal Inspection	Custom Plants	Total
1998	27	23	50
1999	25	23	48
2000	22	15	37
2001	23	15	38
2002	20	17	37
2003	21	14	35
2004	22	11	33
2005	22	9	31
2006	19	8	27
2007	19	8	27

Red Meat Production: By Month, Tennessee, 1997 - 2006¹

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total ²
Million Pounds													
1997	18.4	15.4	15.7	17.6	16.1	15.2	16.1	16.2	19.0	19.8	18.9	21.9	210.3
1998	18.3	15.9	18.6	18.0	16.4	15.7	18.6	18.5	18.5	22.3	22.2	22.0	225.0
1999	20.2	16.4	21.8	19.1	17.3	18.2	17.6	21.1	20.6	19.1	20.2	21.0	232.7
2000	21.5	21.0	20.9	15.9	19.1	17.4	17.1	21.3	19.8	19.9	20.7	19.3	233.9
2001	22.7	16.6	18.5	17.4	17.8	15.5	17.2	18.1	18.3	23.6	20.8	20.2	226.9
2002	20.2	15.8	16.2	17.8	18.4	17.7	17.3	20.3	19.6	23.1	20.7	20.5	227.6
2003	20.8	16.2	19.6	18.9	16.0	15.6	21.1	18.4	22.0	25.1	19.1	20.0	232.9
2004	20.2	19.7	22.4	16.6	12.4	17.9	16.3	17.8	18.8	18.3	19.5	22.1	222.1
2005	18.1	15.7	19.2	12.6	15.9	16.9	13.2	18.3	20.8	21.5	21.0	22.5	215.6
2006	19.0	15.2	18.2	12.5	15.7	15.8	15.2	18.3	19.9	21.8	20.6	18.7	211.0

¹Includes total beef, veal, pork, lamb and mutton, excluding farm slaughter. ² Totals may not add due to rounding.

Commercial Slaughter: By Species, Number of Head by Month, Tennessee, 2006¹

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
1,000 Head													
Cattle	1.5	1.1	1.4	1.1	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.5	1.4	1.4	15.3
Calves	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.2
Hogs	57.1	45.8	54.2	37.9	47.1	47.8	45.7	55.9	60.5	66.7	62.8	55.5	637.1
Sheep	1.0	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.1	1.0	0.9	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.5	12.8

¹Includes slaughter in federally inspected and in other slaughter plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

Federally Inspected Plants and Head Slaughtered: Number by Species, State, and United States, 2006¹

State	Cattle		Calves		Hogs		Sheep		Goats	
	Plants	Head	Plants	Head	Plants	Head	Plants	Head	Plants	Head
	Number	1,000	Number	1,000	Number	1,000	Number	1,000	Number	1,000
TN	12	11.5	6	1.1	16	635.5	10	12.7	9	27,161
U.S.	636	33,145	238	698.7	614	103,688.5	484	2,547	380	584,121

¹Includes data from week ending Jan. 8, 2006 through Dec. 31, 2006.

Indulge Urge to Buy—From Good Growers

Nashville, Tenn. – “Everybody feels the urge to buy lots of plants in the spring to brighten up gardens, patios, decks, walkways-- but after you spend a certain amount of money every year just to watch them die in a couple of weeks, well—you learn to fight the urge.” Rob Beets, horticulture marketing specialist with the Tennessee Department of Agriculture says that success with plants depends on two things: having the right plants from which to choose in the first place, and then knowing how and where to plant them once you get them home. “It’s so tempting to turn your car toward those big retail store parking lots full of color,” says Beets, “with rows and rows of plants that look great. But do you know where they’re grown? Does the person who’s tending that part of the store know anything about plants? If he does know about plants, does he have time to answer your questions about how to use them, or keep them alive?” “I recommend finding a local plant grower instead of a local plant seller,” says Beets. “We’re so lucky in Tennessee to have so many plant nurseries, run by people who are all about the plants they grow. They’ll have a selection of plants already proven to grow well in Tennessee—because they’ve just grown them. “Just be sure you’re at the right garden center, armed with good information, with the right expert at your shoulder— then give in to that urge to improve your landscape and living spaces,” says Beets. For a directory of nurseries and garden centers with Tennessee grown plants, visit the Tennessee Department of Agriculture Web site at www.picktnproducts.org.

Governor’s Conference on Biofuels Scheduled May 30 – June 1

Nashville, Tenn. – Governor Phil Bredesen has announced the first Governor’s Conference on Biofuels will be held at Montgomery Bell State Park May 30-June 1, 2007. The conference will explore opportunities to make Tennessee a leader in the emerging bio-energy field. “We have an opportunity to make Tennessee a national leader in the development of the alternative fuels market,” said Bredesen. “I am pleased we can bring so many partners together and take advantage of our significant academic and agricultural resources to move Tennessee forward in this important area.” The conference will feature expert presenters from Tennessee and across the country. Focus areas for the Governor’s Conference on Biofuels include national biodiesel and ethanol perspectives and initiatives, Tennessee’s current and potential feedstocks, insight into biofuel production, the importance of fuel quality, as well as opportunities for financing alternative fuel projects. “Tennessee has an emerging alternative fuels industry and farm based fuels present a real opportunity for farmers and our rural economy,” said Agriculture Commissioner Ken Givens. “With so much happening on the biofuels front, this conference will be a great resource for farmers, agribusinesses and anyone who is interested in alternative fuels and learning how our State can fully participate in developing this industry.” More information on the Governor’s Conference on Biofuels, including a complete agenda, list of speakers and panelists, and registration forms is available at www.tdec.net/altfuels/conference/.